(c) There were about 1,60,000 IT professionals employed in 1966-97 which rose to 3,40,000 in 1999-2000, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 50%.

Targets for Development of Industries in IT

†4207. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that targets have been fixed for the development of Industries under the Information Technology in coming years in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed togetherwith the assessment with regard to the total capital investment required to achieve this target; and

(c) the total capital investment in this Industry during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set targets of US $ 30 Billion for Hardware (US $ 10 Billion for exports and US $ 20 Billion for domestic) and US $ 87 Billion (US $ 50 Billion for exports and US $ 37 Billion for domestic) for Software, for Year 2008.

Information regarding capital investment is not available.

Dissassociation of IT from Communication and Convergence Bill

4208. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has disassociated itself from the revised draft of Communication and Convergence Bill which has sought to bring all Internet, e-commerce and IT related services under the licence regime;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for disassociating IT from this decision;

(c) whether Government have opposed this move; and

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.